Attorney Docket No. P15187

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method for routing a signaling message in a telecommunication network, wherein the telecommunication network includes a first licensed operator network and second licensed operator network, the first licensed operator network including a first Border Node adjacent to a second Border Node of the second licensed operator network, the method comprising:

providing a first numbering plan for use by the first licensed operator network, wherein the first numbering plan specifies the Point Codes used in the first licensed operator network;

providing a second numbering plan for use by the second licensed operator network wherein the second numbering plan specifies the Point Codes used in the second licensed operator network and wherein the first and second numbering plans use a same Point Code configuration numbering plan;

receiving at the first Border Node the signaling message comprising an Originating Point Code (OPC) and a Destination Point Code (DPC) in accordance with the first numbering plan;

mapping the OPC and the DPC of the signaling message from the first to the second numbering plan; and

delivering the signaling message from the first Border Node to a destination node of the telecommunication network according to the mapped OPC and DPC.

2. - 20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein method is performed using Signaling System 7 (SS7/C7) protocol.

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22.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the signaling message is performed in a Message Transfer Part (MTP) of the first Border Node.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the Border Node is a Signaling Transfer Point or a Signaling End Point.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the signaling message is an outgoing signaling message or an incoming signaling message.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the destination node is in the second licensed operator network, the step of mapping the OPC and the DPC of the signaling message further including:

checking in a Message Transfer Part (MTP) of the first Border Node if a Link Set associated toward the destination node supports MTP Point Code Mapping, if so

       extracting the OPC and the DPC from the signaling message;

       selecting an MTP Point Code Mapping Table associated to the Link Set;

       performing a mapping in the MTP of the first Border Node of the OPC to an alias OPC;

       performing a mapping in the MTP of the first Border Node, of the DPC to an actual DPC of the destination node; and

       replacing the OPC by the alias OPC and the DPC to the actual DPC, wherein the alias OPC and the actual DPC are known in the second licensed operator network.

26.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the Link Set has associated therewith a Mapping Point Code Table.

27.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the destination node is in the first licensed operator network, the step of mapping the OPC and the DPC of the signaling message further including:

checking in a Message Transfer Part (MTP) of the first Border Node if a Link Set associated toward the destination node supports MTP Point Code Mapping, if so

extracting the OPC and DPC from the signaling message;

selecting an MTP Point Code Mapping Table associated to the Link Set;

performing a mapping in the MTP of the first Border Node of the OPC to an alias OPC;

performing a mapping in the MTP of the first Border Node, of the DPC to an actual DPC of the destination node ; and

replacing the OPC by the alias OPC and the DPC by the actual DPC, wherein the alias OPC and the actual DPC are known in the first licensed operator network.

28.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the Link Set has associated therewith a Mapping Point Code Table.